

I feel that the proposal to eliminate the Advanced and Novice class licenses from the present licensing structure shows wisdom. The tests for these classes are no longer being administered and the licenses are "obsolete". To upgrade each class of license, regardless of the amount of time held, is in keeping with the Amateur Radio Incentive Licensing Program. In the case of the Novice license, experience has been gained by their access to the 220 MHz band, which I do not believe has been adversely affected by Novice access. Having Novice licensees upgraded to Tech Plus with Two Meter privileges, is an excellent idea. They have demonstrated their Morse Code Skills and taken a rudimentary skills/knowledge exam. By upgrading the Novice Class license to Tech Plus, the pool of trained communicators able to operate on Two Meter nets, has been increased by the number of Novices upgraded. I do, however, wonder why anybody would not upgrade from Novice class within 20 years?

Advanced Class Operators who have kept up their licenses have at least shown an interest in the hobby enough to keep their licenses current. They, at one time, demonstrated a Morse Code skill level of at least 13 words per minute, and an advanced knowledge of electronics and operating skills.

In summary, I feel that these two license classes are as dinosaurs in the new licensing structure and agree that both classes should be upgraded but without the time in class factor. Thank You